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SPORTS

Winchester senior captain Eddie Donlon reaches milestone for career wins in Lowell wrestling tournament

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester High senior wrestling captain Eddie Donlon proudly holds up a banner celebrating his wins as a varsity wrestler after getting his 100th during the two-day Lowell Holiday Tournament at Lowell's Tsongas Center on Dec. 19 and 20. Donlon went 4-2 throughout this tournament in the 138-pound categor
PHOTO/VITALY NAPADOW

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After participating in a couple of early season invitational tournaments – the Glen Doherty Memorial at home and the Lowell Holiday extravaganza – coupled with an unexpected loss to host Reading, the Winchester High wrestling coaches now have a better idea of the team's strengths and weaknesses.

There are some difficult matches coming up after Christmas, and so the practices leading up to them were used to sort out the starting lineup, while also working on each wrestler's conditioning program to improve the overall stamina, before the schedule heats up.

As a refresher, the match against the Reading Rockets had a not so surprising result, considering the circumstances. The Red & Black, who were shorthanded, ended up dropping a 46-33 decision to their league rival. They had multiple starters out with injuries – including two of the three captains – which makes it difficult to beat a seasoned team like Reading.

But there's good news, because some of those walking wounded will return to the starting lineup when the calendar flips to January. While dealing with the injuries, there has been a silver lining centered around the understudies. They have been given a chance to compete, which is providing them valuable experience on the varsity level.

On Dec. 19 and 20, the Red & Black headed to Lowell's Tsongas Center to wrestle in the aforementioned Lowell Holiday Tournament. This two-day tournament featured over 75 teams, and the locals were able to stand up against many of them quite well.

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Senior captain Eddie Donlon, coming off his win in the Doherty M Tournament, placed eighth in the competitive 138-pound bracket, going 6-3

overall. Among those wins, he was able to secure his 100th career varsity triumph.

“This is a huge accomplishment, and it speaks to his consistency over the past four years,” said Assistant Coach Vitaly Napadow.

In the girls bracket, captain Maria Baldwin came in fourth in the 114-pound category after recording a 4-2 record.

Luca Kovacev, who lost his first-round match, before running off four straight wins, finally ended up dropping a match to a solid Wellesley wrestler on Day 2. He too was 4-2 in Lowell.

Henry Wallace and Jack Allen each finished up with 2-2 records after competing in some “spicy matches,” according to Napadow. They also made it to the second day. Ian Welsh, Beni Curcio and Ele Siciliano picked up the Winchester wins.

“Rani Audi, Massimo Cella and Caleb Kolberg competed hard, while also getting some great varsity experience, which will serve them well as the season progresses,” said Napadow. “Much thanks to coaches Ryan Errico and Tomi Uyehara, who covered all of our matches across the eight mats at the Tsongas Center, as well as all of the wrestlers, who came to the corner to cheer on their teammates.”

Two days after Christmas, the Winchester wrestlers are scheduled to return to the mat for a quad match at Leominster. Franklin and Mahar Regional high schools are also on the four-team card. It should be a good test for the Red & Black. Franklin, for instance, has the two-time 113-pound Lowell Holiday Tournament and New England Tournament champion on its side.

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While the varsity is in Leominster, the JV team will be in Natick for its own tournament. Coach Errico will be with them, while Uyehara and Napadow are going to be in Leominster.

“It will be a great wrestling experience for all the kids who will be attending these tournaments,” said Napadow.

The Leominster non-league quad match will also be a nice tuneup for the New Year’s Day showdown against visiting Wellesley in the new gym, starting at 6 p.m.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News last November.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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SPORTS

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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Latest

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

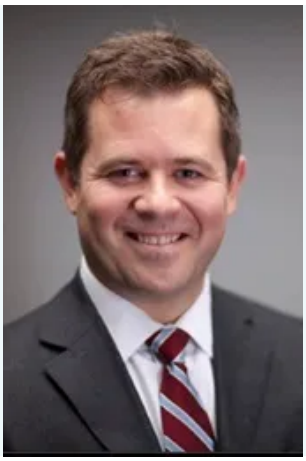
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026



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affordability bill

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Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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